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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

25X1A

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. [REDACTED]

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 26 March 1951

SUBJECT Practice Air Raid Alert
in Ljubljana

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE
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SOURCE

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- 25X1A 1. For several days [REDACTED] the Ljubljana press, radio and public address system announced an air raid alert and warned all citizens to stay indoors from 9:30 a.m. through noon on that day. The civilian partisan or home guard formations were to proceed to their assigned posts to repel an imaginary invader attacking from the north.
- 25X1A 2. The morning [REDACTED] was extremely foggy and a light snow fell, precluding the participation of airplanes in the exercise. At about 8:30 a.m. crowds of men, women and, particularly, children began to gather along the principal streets of the city. At 9:45 a.m. the first sirens were sounded in various parts of the city, and at about 10:00 a.m. they were sounded over the public address system, which then continued to transmit folk songs for the rest of the morning. At 10:30 a.m. the streetcars, which had been operating as usual, were each signalled to a halt by the police and, at about the same time, a dozen soldiers standing on the roof of the local skyscraper, a nine-story building located on Selenburgova Street, started shooting tommy-guns in the air.
3. At 10:45 a.m. a smoke pot was ignited on the roof of a building located on Aleksandra Street opposite the Opera House. The fire engine arrived, ladders were raised to the roof and firemen extinguished the smoke bomb. Approximately one thousand people had gathered to watch the performance.
4. The order to remain indoors was not enforced by the police. All churches were open and masses were celebrated as usual. In the center of town, about six men were seen with Red Cross bands on their sleeves, and another group of 18 men and women, dressed in grey overalls and carrying shovels, marched through the streets. This latter group, which was equipped with gas masks of different foreign types and wore armbands bearing a pick and shovel insignia, were probably assigned to the rescue of bombing victims.
5. From a position near a small barracks located about two kilometers west of Ljubljana, partisan formations were seen arriving across the fields from the north at mid-day. The men were in civilian clothes, ranged from about fifteen to sixty years of age and were armed with rifles mostly of German or Italian manufacture. In all, there were about eight hundred men under

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the command of a few Army officers. They were given a ration of brown bread by the Army upon arriving at the barracks. The majority was then loaded into the trucks available for transport back to the city, while several hundred had to return on foot.

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